

replaced with "wherein" and other minor grammatical changes (such as language choice or division of claims into separate claims) have been made. However, no new matter has been added.

As for the pendency of original Claim 17 in the application, it is noted that during the telephonic interview of September 12, 2002 in which the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement (see below), the Examiner also stated that the Examiner's copy of the file did not contain a) a copy of the originally filed claims and b) a copy of Claim 17. Therefore, the Examiner was unable to indicate into which group of inventions Claim 17 would be grouped.

It is submitted that Claim 17 (Claim 34 is the corresponding Claim in the present Amendment) was properly filed and it is requested that Claim 17 be accorded both the original filing and priority dates as the rest of the originally filed claims. Attached is a copy of the original claims as filed. Finally, it is noted that no preliminary amendment was filed in which Claim 17 was cancelled. Therefore, it is requested that Claim 17 (and, therefore, Claim 34) be accorded the proper filing and priority date and that Claim 17 be assigned a group for the Restriction Requirement.

Additionally, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement dated September 24, 2002. The Examiner has grouped the claims into the following five inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-3 and 16 (New Claims 18-20 and 33);

Group II: Claims 4-8 and 10-11 (New Claims 21-25 and 27-28);

Group III: Claims 9 and 12 (New Claims 26 and 29);

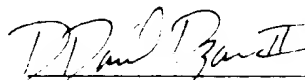
Group IV: Claim 13 (New Claim 30);

Group V: Claims 14 and 15 (New Claims 31 and 32).

Group I (Claims 1-3 and 16), set forth in current claims 18-20 and 33, is herein elected for prosecution with traverse as it would not place an undue burden on the Examiner to search all of the pending claims given the related subject matter of Claims 18-34 in that all the claims basically rely upon the same sequence for patentability. Therefore, it is requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 100564-00064.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Original Claims

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